

ON SEEKING EMPLOYMENT.

We take occasion to lay down a new method in assisting our friends to employment, knowing that every encouragement is necessary to those who are contending with the difficulties of these times. Many persons, for want of the quality of self-confidence, or of right judgment in such matters, are constantly struggling more against imaginary than real difficulties; they depreciate themselves, or their chance of success, and exaggerate the obstacles to their honest progress in life. Now, while we would urge upon every man the policy, and we may add, the duty, of sticking to any engagement he may have until he is called out of it, or sees a clear way of mending his condition, yet to those who have no option—and there are many whose situations are in their nature temporary, or who, by the accident of circumstances wholly beyond their own control, are driven into the market of labour-seekers, to those we urge a timely and a vigorous policy—to use the phraseology of such matters, we say to them, "Carry your eggs to the best market you can, and carry them quickly."

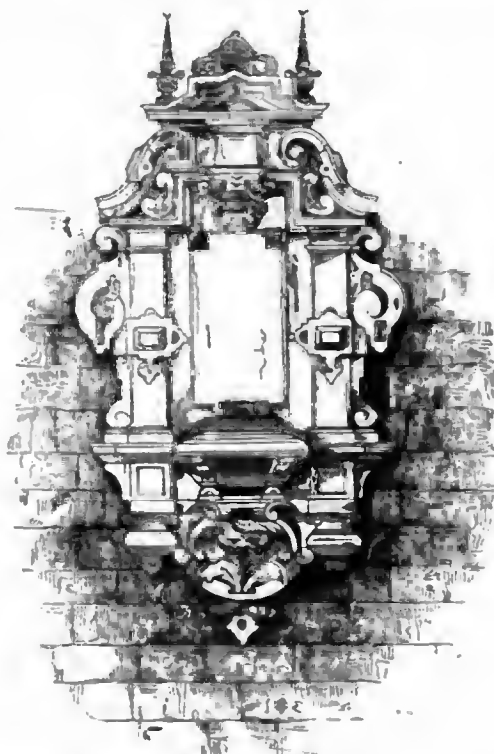
In this active, bustling state of society, we live, as it were, dependent on our own exertion for making known our wants, and if we have any thing to sell, labour, or goods, we must go at least half-way, we must go into the market and offer it to customers; it is very rarely they will come to us. There should be no misgivings in this respect; the matter of parading ourselves before the public is a duty, and like the dealer in a market-place, we must produce the article or a sample, and obtrude them before the eyes and upon the attention of those who are likely to buy.

In our first number we had an advertisement from a young man under the signature of A.B., professing to be a draughtsman and designer in the Elizabethan style, and wishing for employment amongst architects, builders, decorators, &c. He has since succeeded in part to his wishes, but we will venture to say, as much from the influence of advice he then received,

which led him to combat his natural diffidence and to see in its true light the duty of exertion and a full avowal of his wants, as much or more from this circumstance as from his own merits and ability as an artist. Depend upon it, it will not do for a man to shut himself up in his lodging-room, or to walk the streets with timid glance or downcast looks, when his bread depends upon the getting into employment. However great his talent may be, it will as ill grow or display itself in such circumstances as the beautiful flower in a cave or a cellar. No man opens his shop in a back parlour; or, if he open in front, neglects the ordinary appliances of display and show. We do not speak of puffing and boasting, and we have no fear of its being so construed by the diffident and the humble. It would take a good deal of such advice as this to make them come up to the mark of bare propriety.

We take the particular instance which we have cited, and thus enlarge upon it at an unusual length; not for the sake of the individual referred to, but to lay down a principle for the guidance of others, and we carry out our views by an illustration. We have not advised it, but we were requested by this same young man to give him the facility for the exercise of his new acquirement in honest worldly wisdom by inserting the accompanying design for a monumental tablet from his hand. We have already said that he has succeeded in mitigating the pressure of his immediate wants, but he is anxious for employment in this way, and in making designs for furniture, decorations, &c., and we most gladly seize the occasion of setting so good an example to many others who by some such exhibition of their ability may have a chance of success which the more obscure circumstances into which they are thrown may appear to deny to them.

We will return to this subject for the purpose of shewing to many others how they may pursue the same principle, though it may be in different ways; and by setting their qualifications before the world, may advance their legitimate interests, and secure the good that is their due.



ON STATISTICS.

The importance of statistical knowledge in a country like this cannot be over-rated, and perhaps there is no country in the world that has paid less attention to it. A crowd of figures have a repulsive aspect to an Englishman, and the facts that depend upon, or are supported by, such figures, are mostly overlooked, in fear, as it were, of their digital concomitants. What we long to see is a par-

ticular census of the building classes, and the statistics of matters connected with them. We are now referring to an abstract of the population returns for 1841; but we have also before us an excellent little manual of statistics, entitled "A Universal Compendium of Mills, Manufactories, Manufacturing Establishments, Agriculture, &c. in the United Kingdom, and of Foreign States," by Mr. Fowler, of Leeds, which comprehends what we are in search of, viz. a table that ought to be in the hands of

every builder, and which we have directed to be reprinted in our 12th page.

For the present we must content ourselves with a few general notes on the more prominent points. We cannot, this week at least, run through the whole series of counties, and show the comparative ratios for each under the heads we are about to enumerate; we therefore take a general deduction from the three great divisions, and we think it will be seen that to pursue the subject in this way, in reference to counties and to towns or districts, that much useful and valuable information would be put into the hands of the inquiring workman and other persons interested in an exact knowledge of the building statistics of each.

Without going into any troublesome decimal calculations, we will give to round numbers, as near as we think advisable, certain characteristics of building progress in England, Scotland, and Wales, upon a system of averages which will repay attention, and interest the curious observer. Taking the total number of houses inhabited, uninhabited, and building, and comparing it with the population, we arrive at this result: that in England five persons or individuals are assignable to each house; in Scotland nearly the same, but rather less; and in Wales very little more than an average of four and a half; from which we arrive at the conclusion, that in Wales the inhabitants are less crowded together in their residences, and that those of England and Scotland are pretty much alike; but in England the most crowded.

To arrive at a correct notion as to the greater activity of building business in each division, we compare the number of houses in process of erection with the whole population. In England it is one house building to every 580 of the population; in Scotland, 1 to 1,000; and in Wales, 1 to 570. England and Wales, therefore, are nearly alike in this respect, but there is a great disparity between them and Scotland; shewing that the activity of the building business is not so great in the latter country.

The proportion of uninhabited houses to the inhabited ones gives for England every seventeenth house vacant or uninhabited; for Wales nearly every nineteenth, and for Scotland every twenty-fifth; from which, what we may term the surplus of houses is nearly alike in England and Wales, and much greater in both than in Scotland.

We take one more ground of comparison, namely, that of the number of houses building, with the total number of inhabited and uninhabited houses in each country, and we find it as 1 to 116 in England, 1 to 118 in Wales, and 1 to 191 in Scotland; still revealing the near coincidence as regards the two former, and a large disparity as to the latter.

The calculations pursued in this manner in reference to particular counties and to districts, will be important, as shewing where the demand in the building business is greatest, and will thus form a clue to many persons out of employment, to lead them to make their inquiries and applications with a reasonable prospect of success. We therefore propose to resume this subject, and with the best data we can procure, to lay such information before our readers.

SCHOOLS FOR SONS OF THE CLERGY.
AT MARLBOROUGH.

The Committee of Sons of Clergymen received tenders on Monday last for sundry alterations and additions about to be made to that extensive building known as the Castle Hotel, at Marlborough, which they have taken for the purpose of converting into the schools. Mr. T. M. Nelson is the architect, and the contracts sent in were as follows:—

Messrs. Hayward and Dixon	£3,999
Mr. Couchman	3,738
Messrs. Lawrence and Sons	3,664
Mr. Jackson	3,509
Messrs. Woolcott and Son	3,410
" Coles	3,287
" Newton and Reek	3,069
" Rabye	2,965

The late Sir F. Chantrey's equestrian group of the Duke of Wellington, to be erected by the City in gratitude for his grace's municipal services, will be opened on the 14th of June next, the time originally agreed upon, and the 20th anniversary of the glorious victory of Waterloo.